

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 CU-02 OMB-01 /070 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2991

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GE, CSCE

SUBJ: GDR HELSINKI ANNIVERSARY COMMENTARIES

1. SUMMARY: GDR PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE REITERATES THE STANDARD GDR LINE ON CSCE. NEW PUBLIC DEPARTURES CAME ONLY IN AN ASSESSMENT OF WHAT BELGRADE 1977 IS SUPPOSED TO ACCOMPLISH, AND IN CRITICISM OF CLAIMED WESTERN INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS PARALLEL TO THE BREZHNEV PRAVDA INTERVIEW OF JULY 30. THE GDR COMMENTARIES AVOID TYING TO RECENT GDR-FRG BORDER INCIDENTS TO THE HELSINKI ANNIVERSARY. END SUMMARY.

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2. A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON CSCE HAVE APPEARED IN GDR

MEDIA DURING THE PAST WEEK, MARKING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. THEY CONTAIN WHAT HAS BECOME THE STANDARD GDR LINE ON CSCE: THE FINAL ACT IS A UNITY IN WHICH SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS (THE OPENING CODEX OF TEN PRINCIPLES, THE INVIOABILITY OF BOUNDARIES, NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY) TAKE PRECEDENCE; THE GDR HAS FULFILLED ITS SIDE OF THE BARGAIN BY CARRYING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAPITALIST LANDS THAN THE WEST DOES ABOUT THE GDR; DETENTE IS STILL THE PRINCIPAL TENDENCY IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS, THOUGH ANTI-DETENTE FORCES IN THE WEST HAVE INCREASED THEIR ACTIVITIES SINCE HELSINKI, AND MUST BE CLOSELY WATCHED.

3. NEW DEPARTURES, MINOR THOUGH THEY MAY SEEM, COME IN REGARD TO BELGRADE 1977. IN AN ARTICLE HONORING THE HELSINKI FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN GDR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEEKLY HORIZONT, MFA PRESS SECTION REPRESENTATIVE ECKEHARD RIECHEL WARNS THAT ALL ATTEMPTS TO DISCUSS "UNREALISTIC 'CONTROL' MEASURES" AT BELGRADE CAN ONLY COMPLICATE THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE IN THE SAME PUBLICATION, DR. SIEGFRIED BOCK, HEAD OF THE GDR CSCE DELEGATION IN GENEVA, REFERS TO THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AS A DOCUMENT BINDING UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND NOTES THAT THE PHASE WILL TAKE LONGER THAN 1977 TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE DOCUMENT IS BEING APPLIED BY ALL STATES IN ALL AREAS. FOR BOCK, BELGRADE IS NOT DESTINED TO REPLACE THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE, NOR SHOULD IT BE A FORUM FOR REVISING THE FINAL ACT. INSTEAD, BELGRADE SHOULD AFFORD A CHANCE TO EXCHANGE ON STEPS THAT SERVE THE FURTHER MULTILATERAL APPLICATION OF THE FINAL ACT. IN BOCK'S WORDS: "IT WOULD CORRESPOND TO NEITHER THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI NOR THE CONTENTS OF THE FINAL ACT IF THE FOLLOW-UP MEETING WERE TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A COMPLAINT SESSION OR EVEN INTO A COURTROOM." IN A COMPANION ARTICLE, STEFAN DOERNBERG OF THE GDR INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DOTES THAT ONE REASON WHY SOME IN THE WEST NOW QUESTION DETENTE STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT THEY HARBORED FALSE EXPECTATIONS BEFORE HELSINKI AND NOW ARE APPROACHING THE FINAL ACT LIKE "BUSINESSMEN" DRAWING UP BALANCES ON INDIVIDUAL STATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND PITTING ONE PART OF THE FINAL ACT AGAINST ANOTHER.

4. ANOTHER COMMON THEME IN THESE ARTICLES IS THE FAMILIAR ENUMERATION OF ALL THE GDR HAS DONE SINCE HELSINKI, INCLUDING RECENT GDR EASING OF WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS, WHO CAN NOW APPROACH MFA MINISTRIES DIRECTLY WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE MFA PRESS SECTION AND WHOSE FAMILIES NOW ENJOY MORE LIBERAL TRANSIT BETWEEN EAST AND

WEST BERLIN. AS USUAL, THE WEST IS ACCUSED OF NOT  
HAVING KEPT UP WITH THE SOCIALIST STATES IN IMPLEMENTING  
THE FINAL ACT.

5. A JULY 31 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND EDITORIAL TITLED  
"ONE YEAR AFTER HELSINKI" ECHOES ACCUSATIONS OF WESTERN  
INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS CONTAINED IN  
THE BREZHNEV PRAVDA INTERVIEW, WHICH WAS ALSO CARRIED ON  
THE FRONT PAGE OF ND THE SAME DAY, AND STATES THAT SUCH  
INTERFERENCE RUNS COUNTER TO THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI. IT  
CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT IN SPITE OF ANTI-DETENTE CURRENTS  
IN THE WEST, DETENTE IS STILL THE PRIMARY TENDENCY IN  
EUROPE, AND POLITICAL DETENT SHOULD BE MADE IRREVERSIBLE  
AND CONSOLIDATED THROUGH MILITARY DETENTE.

6. COMMENT: THESE GDR COMMENTARIES REFRAIN FROM SPECIF-  
ICALLY LINKING RECENT GDR-FRG BORDER INCIDENTS TO  
HELSINKI, ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL GDR STATEMENTS AT THE TIME OF  
THE INCIDENTS IMPLIED THAT SUPPOSED "BORDER VIOLATIONS"  
BY THE FRG RAN COUNTER TO THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. THE GDR  
APPARENTLY IS STEPPING BACK ON THIS ISSUE WHILE LETTING  
PRAVDA ACCUSE THE FRG OF GOING AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF  
HELSINKI AND NOT ACCEPTING GDR SOVEREIGNTY IN ITS REACTION  
TO THE BORDER INCIDENTS.COOPER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, GC, CSCE  
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